Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Florence County

County characteristics

- 495 sq. mi.
- 87% forest: 36,300 acres County Forest, 83,300 acres National Forest
- 261 lakes, 165 streams (111 high quality trout streams)
- Large barrens habitat community
- There are 5,081 residents living in Florence County

State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing

- 15,000 acres of State land open to hunting including the Pine-Popple Wild Rivers Area and the Spread Eagle Barrens Natural Area.

Locate DNR properties at:
http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_lands_mapping.html

DNR Staff serving you

- Wildlife staff shared from Oneida and Langlade Counties, 1 Fisheries Biologist, 1 Fisheries Technician, 1 Conservation Warden
- Staff serving Florence Co are located in offices at Florence, Woodruff and Rhinelander.
- Staff also serves portions of Forest, Vilas, Langlade and Oneida counties.

Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- Restore and maintain barrens communities for grassland birds and other wildlife species.
- Monitor Wild Rivers stream temperatures and habitat to identify trout habitat restoration sites.
- Conduct electro-shocking netting operations to survey fish populations. The information acquired is used to improve regulations, direct habitat changes, determine stocking needs, and educational efforts.
- Enforce fish and game laws. Recent game violations have included; hunting deer without a license, out of season, and with aid of artificial light.
- Monitor and manage watersheds; culvert replacement, and remnant dam removals.
- Post fishing regulation signs at public access points.
- Remove beaver from trout streams to restore and maintain habitat.
- Monitor local populations of deer, bear, grouse and woodcock.

Activities continued…

- Enforce environmental protection laws.
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus.
- Work with foresters to maintain and develop forest habitat for game and non-game wildlife.
- Evaluate proposed projects for environmental impacts, work to keep habitats intact and functioning for fish and wildlife.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups.

Florence County Conservation Snapshots

> 1 Boat Launch Access
> 8 ALIS Agents Supported
> 6 local Deer, Turkey & Bear Registration Stations
> 21 Hotline Complaints
> Multiple access points on Pine/Popple Rivers

Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary

- 13 lakes stocked with over 89,500 walleye, and trout
- 5 streams stocked with 25,900 trout

County Success Stories

- Partnered with Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association for monitoring and GIS mapping to identify habitat needs in the Pine/Popple Wild Rivers watershed.
- Partnered with Florence County to raise walleye fingerlings for annual stocking in area waters.
- Partnered with WE Energies to remove Woods Creek Dam and restore Woods Creek trout habitat.
- Acquire 7,850 acre Spread Eagle Barrens property, prescribed burns and brush clearing to restore open landscape.
- Acquire 7,200 acre Pine/Popple Wild Rivers Area, protect riparian lands, provide fishing access.
- Partnered with Trout Unlimited and APHIS to support a new beaver trapper dedicated to trout streams of the Wild Rivers watershed.
- Wildlife staff provides input on county forest plans and helps develop wildlife projects on the Florence County Forest.

Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

Want to Learn More? Go to dnr.wi.gov/invest